

NOTE: This statement was read at the Project Independence rally for campaign finance reform at Faneuil Hall in Boston, MA.

Proclamation 6979—Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy, 1997

March 25, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, the Greek people and the Hellenic Republic will celebrate the 176th anniversary of the beginning of their struggle for independence.

On this day, it is fitting that we reflect on the enormous contributions the Greek people have made to the modern world. The legacy of the ancient Greeks, in the fields of philosophy, literature, drama, sculpture, and architecture, continues to influence our beliefs, our values, and our concept of art. And, after more than 2,000 years, the ideology of Greece—as embodied in the concept of democracy—is still the ideal that guides us in charting our course for the future.

Greek ideology had a profound effect on our Founding Fathers, who molded the American form of government based upon the principles of Greek democracy. Thomas Jefferson studied the Greek classics in his youth and was inspired by their philosophy throughout his life, most dramatically when he crafted the Declaration of Independence. When formulating his vision for this country, Jefferson specifically referred to the integrated assertions, theories, and aims of the classic Greek world.

Our admiration for Greece continues into the modern day, and we salute its commitment to democracy, to peace, and to a united and stable Europe. We share a partnership with Greece in NATO, and our countries are linked forever by close family relationships between our peoples. Our Nation looks forward to working closely with Greece in the coming years as we examine ways to bring full peace, stability, and prosperity to all the nations of Europe and the world.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 1997, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 27.

**Executive Order 13040—
Amendment to Executive Order
13017, Advisory Commission on
Consumer Protection and Quality in
the Health Care Industry**

March 25, 1997

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to expand membership and ensure broad-based representation for the Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry and to revise the deadlines for the Commission's submission to the President of interim and final reports, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 1(a) of Executive Order 13017 is amended by deleting the number "20" in the second sentence and inserting the number "32" in lieu thereof.

Sec. 2. Section 3 of Executive Order 13017 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Reports. The Commission shall make a preliminary report to the President by January 31, 1998. A final